

***REMARKS***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 6-14, 16 and 18 are pending in the application. Claims 4 and 5 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the subject matter of the amended claims is contained in the application as originally filed. Because the foregoing changes introduce no new matter, their entry is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit the foregoing amendments do not raise new issues and present the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Objections to the Specification and Claim 9***

The Examiner made an objection to the Specification as having no basis for the term “activator portion” appearing in claim 4, line 9. Further, the Examiner objected to claim 9, which includes all the limitations of claim 4, for lacking an antecedent basis for the term “actuator portion.”

To resolve both objections, the term “actuator” replaces the term “activator” in the above amendment of claims 6 and 7. For support, see page 6, line 23 of the Specification and the figures. Applicant thanks the Examiner for pointing out the typographical error.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that dependent claims 6-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the rejected base claim and any intervening claims, along with correcting the objections noted above.

Applicant has amended claims 6 and 7 to be in independent form and has addressed the Examiner's objections by correcting the typographical error noted above. Applicant respectfully submits that rewritten claims 6 and 7 are now allowable. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8-14, 16 and 18, which depend from claim 7, are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 7.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102***

***Claims 4, 5, 10-14 and 18***

The Examiner rejected claims 4, 5, 10-14 and 18 over U.S. Patent No. 4,222,489 to Hutter.

Claims 4 and 5 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejections of claims 4 and 5 are rendered moot by the cancellation thereof.

Claims 10-14 and 18, as presently pending, depend directly or indirectly from claim 7 and are thus allowable over the art of records for at least the same reasons as claim 7 noted above.

***CONCLUSION***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extension of time or additional claims,

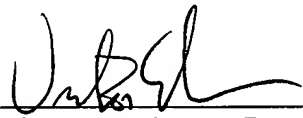
and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2319 (Order No. 463881-00024;  
Docket No. 33528/US/RFT/VEJ).

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Response is respectfully  
requested.

Respectfully submitted,

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP

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